

America Mingles with Al Qaeda in Syria: Washington Wants Russia Not to Target al-Qaeda "Terror Groups"

By **Daniel McAdams**

Global Research, May 01, 2017

Ron Paul Institute 28 April 2017

Region: Middle East & North Africa

Theme: <u>Terrorism</u>, <u>US NATO War Agenda</u>

In-depth Report: SYRIA

The total muddle that is US policy toward Syria continues to astonish. This week we saw the spectacle of a State Department Spokesman telling us that President Obama's promise to not put US boots on the ground in Syria, was never a promise not to put boots on the ground in Syria. Yes, it was funny to see him squirm, but there is nothing funny about the past five years of disastrous policy in Syria. Particularly considering the thousands killed once the US decided that "Assad must go" and began sending in fighters to make that happen.

Now we see the extraordinary situation where the US government admits that the militia groups Jaish al-Islam and Ahrar al-Sham are fighting alongside and are "intermingled with" al-Qaeda's Nusra Front, but resoundingly rejects the Russian request to therefore classify these two groups terrorist.

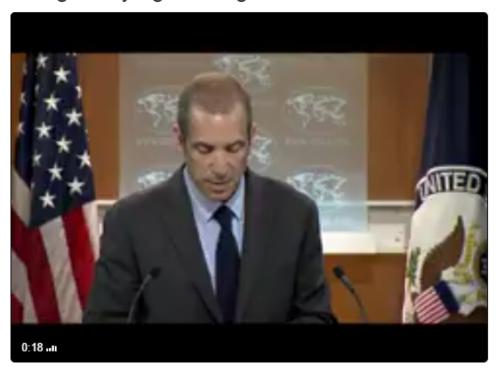
In fact, not only does fighting alongside and "intermingling with" al-Qaeda not get a group classified "terrorist," the US government is actually asking Russia and the Syrian government to stop shooting at such groups!

Here's State Department Spokesman Mark Toner making the request:





US wants Russia & #Syria not to target terror grps AhrarSham & Jaish al-Islam even though they fight alongside Nusra



Check the video here

So the State Department is urging the Syrians and Russians to stop bombing Aleppo because Jaish al-Islam and Ahrar al-Sham are operating there, even though it also admits that the groups are "intermingling" with al-Qaeda's Nusra Front.

But it gets even more bizarre, as Pentagon Spokesman Col. Steve Warren <u>said last week</u> in a press briefing that "it's primarily al-Nusra who holds Aleppo."

Why does the State Department urge a cessation of hostilities against the forces holding Aleppo while the Pentagon tells us that it is primarily al-Qaeda's Nusra Front that is in charge of Aleppo?

Do either of them know what's going on there?

State Department Spokesman John Kirby tries to explain it away by telling us that because Jaish al-Islam and Ahrar al-Sham are also present (intermingling with Nusra Front — "because they want to be near one another"), there should be no Russian or Syrian attack on Aleppo.

But in a February 22 <u>press briefing</u>, State Department Spokesman Mark Toner explicitly stated that groups who fight alongside al-Nusra Front or other terrorist groups in Syria would be legitimate military targets!

Asked whether the groups fighting alongside al-Nusra in Syria should be considered military targets, Toner made it clear that such actions opened them up to being targeted:

Again, that's for them to – frankly, to resolve. I mean, if they're going to be – I mean, they cannot – we have been very clear that – we, the ISSG, have been very clear in saying that al-Nusrah and Daesh are not part of any kind of ceasefire or any kind of negotiated cessation of hostilities. So if you hang out with the wrong folks, then you make that decision.

Is this all coming through clearly? Doesn't it feel like they are making it up as they go?

The original source of this article is Ron Paul Institute
Copyright © Daniel McAdams, Ron Paul Institute, 2017

Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page

Become a Member of Global Research

Articles by: Daniel McAdams

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca

www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca